

Radioactive Waste Management Agency  
and  
Nuclear Safety Authority  
in Belgium

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# Institutional framework (1)

## Nuclear Safety

Law of 15 April 1994 on the protection of the population and the environment against the hazards of ionising radiation and on the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (as amended)

Royal Decree of 20 July 2001 laying down the General Regulations on the Protection of the Public, the Workers and the Environment against the hazards of Ionising Radiation (as amended)

Royal Decree of 24 March 2009 regulating import, transit and export of radioactive substances

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# Institutional framework (2)

## Radioactive Waste Management

Law of 8 August 1980 on the budgetary proposal for 1979-1980

Royal Decree of 30 March 1981 on the missions and tasks of the National Agency for radioactive waste and enriched fissile material (as amended)

Royal Decree of 18 November 2002 on the qualification of installations for storage, treatment and conditioning of radioactive waste

Law of 11 April 2003 on the provisions for the dismantling of nuclear power plants and the management of the spent fuel from these nuclear power plants

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## The Actors

- FANC = the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control  
(Minister of Home Affairs)
- ONDRAF/NIRAS = the Agency for radioactive waste and enriched fissile materials  
(Minister of Energy)

## ONDRAF/NIRAS

- created by the law of 8 August 1980
- responsible for the safe management of all radioactive waste on the Belgian territory (in compliance with the relevant radiation and nuclear safety regulations)

## FANC

- created by the law of 15 April 1994
  
- responsible for the development and the implementation of the radiation and nuclear safety and security regulations
  - establishment of directives and guidance
  - review and assessment
  - licensing
  - inspection and enforcement
- + approval of general rules for the setting of waste acceptance criteria (proposed by ONDRAF/NIRAS)

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## Facilities

radioactive waste management facilities are class I nuclear facilities

- license application (including safety analysis report and environmental impact assessment report) reviewed by the FANC
- licensed by royal decree (following consultation of scientific council and local authorities)
- health physics department, supervised by Bel V (subsidiary of the FANC)
- inspections by the FANC

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## Co-operation Agreement (1)

- required by the Royal Decree of 20 July 2001 (General Radiological Protection Regulations)
- concluded in October 2003
- amended in February 2007 following the decision of the Council of Ministers dated 23 June 2006
  - FANC to develop a specific licensing system for disposal of radioactive waste
  - FANC to follow-up activities of ONDRAF/NIRAS w.r.t. the near surface disposal project

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## Co-operation Agreement (2)

- general provisions (exchange of information, planning of work ...)
- 16 thematic addenda:
  - (1) regulations
  - (4) general rules for waste acceptance criteria
  - (7) very low level waste
  - (10) short-lived low and intermediate level waste [A]
  - (11) long-lived intermediate and high level waste [B & C]
  - (15) international affairs

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## Practical examples (Add. 1)

### Regulations

- draft regulations (specific licensing system for disposal, exemption and clearance in terms of surface contamination) are presented to ONDRAF/NIRAS for comment; comments are taken into consideration
- joint working group to harmonise definitions (radioactive waste, decommissioning and dismantling, disposal...)

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## Practical examples (Add. 4)

### General Rules for Waste Acceptance Criteria

- general rules have been proposed by ONDRAF/NIRAS for conditioned and non-conditioned radioactive waste; they were approved by the Minister of Home Affairs on 10 February 1999
- need for revision (disposal): a joint working group has been set up

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## Practical examples (Add. 10)

### Long-term management of category A waste

- milestones are defined in the amended addendum; draft deliverables are sent to the other party for comment
- draft guidance (operational safety, human intrusion, accidents of external origin...) is presented to ONDRAF/NIRAS for comment; comments are taken into consideration
- joint working groups to discuss points of particular interest for safety

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## Practical examples (Add. 15)

### International Affairs

- IAEA: draft waste safety standards are sent to ONDRAF/NIRAS for comment; comments are taken into consideration by the Belgian WASSC member/FANC
- Euratom: FANC and ONDRAF/NIRAS are both represented in ENSREG

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